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Evening Papers .. 27th July, 1945.
Morning Papers .. 28th July, 1945.

RETAIL PRICES - JUNE QUARTER, 1945.

All Items - "C" Series.

Index numbers for June quarter 1945 (with base 1000 in 1923-27 in the six State Capitals) were Brisbane 1072, Toowoomba 1088, Rockhampton 1083, Townsville 1115, Bundaberg 1053 and Warwick 1059.

The figures show the following percentage increases or decreases when compared with those for the periods shown.

City.				June Quarter, 1945 - Percentage Increase or Decrease Compared With -		
				Year Ended June, 1939.	June Quarter, 1944.	March Quarter, 1945.
Brisbane	..	..	..	24.2	-	0.1
Toowoomba	..	..	..	27.8	0.3	0.2
Rockhampton	..	..	..	25.8	0.7	0.6
Townsville	..	..	..	22.3	- 0.4	- 0.2
Bundaberg	..	..	..	25.2	- 0.7	- 0.3
Warwick	..	..	..	28.8	- 0.3	- 0.2

Food and groceries, clothing and footwear, and the miscellaneous group of items comprising household drapery and hardware, fuel, light, fares, etc., have shown the following percentage changes during the last quarter and since 1938-39.

CITY.	Food and Groceries.		Clothing and Footwear.		Miscellaneous Items.	
	Percentage Increase or Decrease on Year Ended June, 1939.	Percentage Increase or Decrease on March Qr. 1945.	Percentage Increase or Decrease on Year Ended June, 1939.	Percentage Increase or Decrease on March Qr. 1945.	Percentage Increase or Decrease on Year Ended June, 1939.	Percentage Increase or Decrease on March Qr. 1945.
Brisbane	13.2	0.2	72.1	- 0.1	19.1	-
Toowoomba	24.8	0.7	68.9	0.1	18.4	- 0.3
Rockhampton	14.4	0.6	72.3	1.0	20.9	0.2
Townsville	11.3	0.5	70.0	- 1.2	18.3	0.2
Bundaberg	14.3	0.2	67.9	- 1.6	17.8	0.3
Warwick	16.2	- 0.4	70.7	- 0.4	21.2	0.1

Food and Rent (4 and 5 roomed houses) - "B" Series.

Index numbers for June quarter, 1945 (with base 1000 in 1923-27 for the six State Capitals) were Brisbane 926, Toowoomba 953, Rockhampton 922, Townsville 983, Bundaberg 890, and Warwick 886.

From March quarter 1945 to June quarter 1945 the "B" Series Index showed increases in Brisbane 0.2%, Toowoomba 0.4%, Rockhampton 0.4%, Townsville 0.3%, and Bundaberg 0.2%. Warwick decreased by 0.2%.

The rent index remained stationary in Brisbane, Toowoomba and Townsville but there were small increases in Rockhampton (0.1 per cent.), Bundaberg (0.3 per cent.) and Warwick (0.4 per cent.).

Compared with June quarter 1944 the "B" Series index increased in Brisbane 0.2%, Toowoomba 0.7%, Rockhampton 1.2%, Townsville 0.7% and Bundaberg 0.1%. There was a decrease of 0.2% in Warwick.

The rent index showed no movement in Brisbane and Townsville but small increases appeared in Toowoomba (0.1%), Rockhampton (0.1%), Bundaberg (0.3%) and Warwick (0.4%).

Increases were recorded in all towns for food and groceries compared with 1938-39; the percentage changes are shown in the second table on the previous page.

Comparison of Costs in Queensland Cities.

The following table shows the amounts, for the various Queensland cities, necessary, in June quarter 1945, to purchase what would have cost £1 in Brisbane.

City.			All Items.	Food and Groceries.	Rent (4 and 5 Rooms).	Clothing and Footwear.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Brisbane	..	..	1. 0. 0	1. 0. 0	1. 0. 0	1. 0. 0
Toowoomba	..	..	1. 0. 4	1. 1. 0	19.11	19. 7
Rockhampton	..	..	1. 0. 2	1. 1. 2	17.10	1. 0. 5
Townsville	..	..	1. 0.10	1. 1.11	1. 0. 1	1. 0. 0
Bundaberg	..	..	19. 8	1. 1. 4	15. 7	19. 9
Warwick	..	..	19. 9	1. 0. 3	17. 2	19. 9

Comparison of Commonwealth and State Basic Wages.

In the following statement comparisons are made between the prevailing basic wages in the various Capital Cities and States. The margins between the Brisbane (or Queensland) figure and the other figures in these columns show the advantage to the Queensland State Basic Wage earner.

STATE.	METROPOLITAN.				STATE AVERAGES b.			
	Price Index Nos. "C" Series.	Amount required to give same standard of living as current State Basic Wage in Brisbane.	Actual Basic Wage. a.	Margin in Favour of Brisbane.	Price Index Nos. "C" Series.	Amount required to give same standard of living as current State Basic Wage in Queensland.	State Basic Wage.	Margin in Favour of Q'land.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	s. d.
Queensland	1072	4.17. 0	4.17.0	-	1076	4.17. 8	4.17. 8	-
N.S.Wales	1141	5. 3. 3	4.18.0	5. 3	1138	5. 3. 4	4.18. 0	5. 4
Victoria	1134	5. 2. 7	4.18.0	4. 7	1131	5. 2. 8	4.17.10	4.10
South Aust.	1100	4.19. 6	4.14.0	5. 6	1096	4.19. 6	4.14. 0	5. 6
West Aust.	1108	5. 0. 3	5. 0.1	2	1117	5. 1. 5	5. 0. 7	10
Tasmania	1099	4.19. 5	4.13.0	6. 5	1085	4.18. 6	4.12. 0	6. 6

a. Current State Basic Wage.

b. Average for 5 principal cities in each State, weighted by population.

RETAIL PRICES INDEX.

Table No. 1.

THE "ALL ITEMS" INDEX - "C" SERIES.

(Base = 1000 in 1923-27 in Six State Capitals).

City.	Year Ended Decr. 1928.	Year Ended June, 1939.	Year Ended June 1945.	Quarters Ended -				
				June 1944.	Sept. 1944.	Decr. 1944.	March 1945.	June 1945.
Brisbane	917	863	1071	1072	1071	1069	1071	1072
Toowoomba	906	851	1086	1085	1084	1084	1086	1088
Rockhampton	903	861	1076	1076	1074	1071	1077	1083
Townsville	1023	912	1116	1119	1117	1116	1117	1115
Bundaberg	(b)	841	1056	1060	1057	1056	1056	1053
Weighted Averages -								
Five Cities (a) ..	915	864	1075	1076	1075	1073	1075	1076
Warwick	914	822	1061	1062	1063	1061	1061	1059

(a) Prior to 1937 the five towns in the weighted averages included Charters Towers and Warwick which have now been replaced by Townsville and Bundaberg.

(b) Prices for Bundaberg were not collected prior to September quarter, 1936.

Table No. 2. FOOD, GROCERIES AND RENT (4 AND 5 ROOMED HOUSES) - "B" SERIES.

(Base = 1000 in 1923-27 in Six State Capitals).

City.	Year Ended Decr. 1928.	Year Ended June, 1939.	Year Ended June 1945.	Quarters Ended -				
				June 1944.	Sept. 1944.	Decr. 1944.	March 1945.	June 1945.
Brisbane	901	852	923	924	922	919	924	926
Toowoomba	833	821	948	946	943	945	949	953
Rockhampton	858	837	913	911	907	906	918	922
Townsville	1047	916	978	976	975	975	980	983
Bundaberg	(b)	799	887	889	884	884	888	890
Weighted Average -								
Five Cities (a) ..	892	851	927	927	925	923	928	930
Warwick	841	768	887	888	887	887	888	886

(a) Prior to 1937 the five towns in the weighted averages included Charters Towers and Warwick which have now been replaced by Townsville and Bundaberg.

(b) Prices for Bundaberg were not collected prior to September quarter, 1936.

Table No. 3.

AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES - FOOD AND GROCERIES.

Brisbane.

Commodity and Unit of Quantity.	Year Ended June 1939.	MONTH OF		Commodity and Unit of Quantity.	Year Ended June 1939.	MONTH OF	
		March 1945.	June 1945.			March 1945.	June 1945.
	d.	d.	d.		d.	d.	d.
Bread .. 2 lb.	5.33	5.50	5.50	Oats - flaked .. 1 lb.	3.57	4.06	4.06
Flour .. 2 lb.	3.73	4.09	4.09	Milk .. 1 qt.	6.00	7.10	7.10
Tea .. 1 lb.	26.99	27.05	27.05	Beef - Sirloln			
Sugar .. 1 lb.	3.98	3.98	3.94	Roast .. 1 lb.	8.73	12.00	12.00
Jam (Plum) .. 1½ lb.	8.02	12.55	12.59	Beef - Steak			
Raisins .. 1 lb.	10.57	12.85	12.91	Rump .. 1 lb.	11.34	17.00	17.00
Potatoes .. 7 lb.	14.88	8.37	8.36	Beef - Steak			
Onions .. 1 lb.	2.93	2.96	2.96	Chuck .. 1 lb.	5.83	7.55	7.35
Soap .. 1 lb.	6.20	6.88	6.94	Beef - Rolled			
Butter .. 1 lb.	19.00	19.91	19.82	Brisket .. 1 lb.	5.48	7.90	7.65
Cheese .. 1 lb.	13.28	15.09	15.09	Mutton - Leg .. 1 lb.	7.75	8.50	8.50
Eggs .. 1 doz.	19.69	27.91	27.91	Mutton - Chops			
				Loin .. 1 lb.	7.78	9.00	9.00